

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 082633
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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, ENRG, ID, TH, MY, RP, SN

SUBJECT: ENERGY INITIATIVES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
VISIT TO THE ASEAN AREA

REF: JAKARTA 0667
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 082633

1. AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE HAS PREPARED SEVERAL POSSIBLE
ENERGY INITIATIVES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. WE
WOULD APPRECIATE ACTION ADDRESSEE COMMENTS ON THESE IDEAS
PARTICULARLY RE THE LIKELIHOOD OF HOST COUNTRY AND ASEAN
RECEPTIVITY, AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS ON HOW PROPOSALS COULD
BEST BE PRESENTED. REPLIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY COB,

TUESDAY, APRIL 4. AT THIS TIME, YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENT ON THESE POINTS, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR SUGGESTIONS SOONEST RE THE ADVISABILITY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSSING THEM DURING HIS VISIT.

2. THE USG IS SEEKING TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN ENERGY FIELDS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY SERVE AID RECIPIENTS (THAILAND, INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES) BUT WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE AS MEMBERS OF ASEAN. POSSIBLE U.S. ENERGY INITIATIVES MIGHT INCLUDE TRAINING IN THE US, ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL (AND REGIONAL) RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL

INSTITUTIONS, AND EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL DATA IN FIELDS IN WHICH THE USG AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS HAVE EXPERIENCE AND/OR HAVE RESEARCH UNDERWAY. AREAS OF SUCH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS COULD INCLUDE SOLAR ENERGY, TANKER SAFETY AND OILSPILL TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY CONSERVATION, COAL MINING TECHNOLOGY, AND ASSISTANCE IN EVALUATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES. POST COMMENTS ON THESE AND OTHER ENERGY AREAS FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATION WOULD BE WELCOME. THESE EFFORTS WOULD HAVE TO BE ORGANIZED ON A BILATERAL BASIS TO MEET THE INDIVIDUAL AND VARIED COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS. BUT WE SEE BENEFIT IN MAKING SUCH OFFERS INITIALLY IN AN ASEAN CONTEXT, AND USING REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHERE APPROPRIATE, SUCH AS THE ASIAN INSTITUTE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 082633

OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT), AS CHANNELS FOR SOME REGIONALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY FOR ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD ALSO BENEFIT MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

3. POSTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE ARE TWO ENERGY-RELATED U.S. ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES NOW UNDERWAY. THE DOE HAS LIMITED FUNDING AVAILABLE IN FY 1978 FOR AN INTERAGENCY PILOT PROGRAM IN NON-NUCLEAR ALTERNATIVES (LDC ENERGY PROGRAM) TO HELP IN ENERGY PLANNING AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL ENRGY RESOURCES. THIS PROGRAM HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH INDONESIA AND IT NOW MIGHT BE SUGGESTED TO THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS PROGRAM MAY CONTINUE NEXT YEAR WITH FUNDING TO BE PROVIDED UNDER THE 1978 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ACT.

AID, UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 119, OF THE FAA, IS AUTHORIZED TO FUND PROJECTS RELATED TO RENEWABLE AND UNCONVENTIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES. IN ADDITION, UNDER SECTION 106(A)(2), AID IS AUTHORIZED TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE FOR PROGRAMS TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALLEVIATE THEIR ENERGY PROBLEMS BY INCREASING THEIR

PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY. INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES ALREADY HAVE AID PROGRAMS WITH ENERGY COMPONENTS.

4. ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY PRPSENTED IN AN ASEAN CONTEXT, THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE BILATERAL ACTIVITIES ARE PUT FORWARD-FOR INDIVIDUAL POST COMMENT:

A) FOR JAKARTA: THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN A WIDE RANGE OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND NON-CONVENTIONAL. APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF THE USG WOULD SUPPORT A PROGRAM PERCEIVED BY THE GOI TO BE OF VALUE IN IMPROVING ITS ENERGY POSITION. IN VIEW OF THE DISCUSSIONS ALREADY HELD ON THE US PILOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 082633

PROGRAM, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE FOLLOW-ON PROPOSALS RESPONSIVE TO THE GOI DESIRES EXPRESSED IN JAKARTA'S 0667. THE VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT SUGGEST US ASSISTANCE IN INCREASING THE GOI'S ENERGY DATA BASE, STRENGTHENING ENERGY PLANNING CAPABILITIES, AND DEVELOPING ORIGINAL ECONOMIC OR BASIC TECHNICAL STUDIES. TWO OTHER AREAS OF APPARENT INDONESIAN AND US GOVERNMENT INTEREST ARE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND COAL. IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD SUGGEST AN EFFORT IN THE COAL AREA AS THIS WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE MINISTER OF MINES AT DOE LAST SEPTEMBER. THE US WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE GOI MAINTAIN ITS OIL EXPORTS, HELP IDENTIFY NEW COAL RESOURCES AND ANALYZE PROBLEMS OF COAL DEVELOPMENT.

B) FOR BANGKOK: THE US MIGHT PROPOSE A COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY IN ENERGY PLANNING AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT UNDER THE US PILOT PROGRAM, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES AND AREAS FOR POSSIBLE JOINT PROGRAMS. A JOINT EFFORT COULD HELP IN CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING SUCH INDIGENOUS RESOURCES SUCH AS LIGNITE, LOW-HEAD HYDRO, AND OTHER SMALL-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES. USG ASSISTANCE IN ASSESSING LIGNITE RESOURCES COULD COMPLIMENT A RECENT ADB LOAN TO DEVELOP LIGNITE DEPOSITS. COOPERATION IN OTHER TECHNOLOGIES BASED ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES IS ALSO POSSIBLE. SOME SMALL BUT COMPETENT EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY AT THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT) ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE RESOURCE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES FOR USE IN RURAL AREAS. AN OFFER TO INITIATE A TECHNICAL EXCHANGE WITH RESEARCHERS AT THIS INSTITUTION FOR BOTH THAI SPECIFIC AND REGIONAL ENERGY PROGRAMS MIGHT BE POSITIVELY RECEIVED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 082633

C) FOR MANILA: THE US COULD PROPOSE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN ENERGY PLANNING AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AS A STEP TOWARD IDENTIFYING JOINT TECHNOLOGY, RESOURCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS. THERE APPEARS TO BE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER COLLABORATIVE WORK IN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY. SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD ALSO COMPLIMENT AID'S PROPOSED LOAN TO DEVELOP NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. OPTIONS FOR COOPERATION COULD INCLUDE: 1) EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND PLANNERS, 2) TRAINING COURSES, 3) A JOINT WORKSHOP.

D) FOR CANBERRA: WOULD APPRECIATE INITIAL REACTIONS REGARDING OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND THE EFFORTS OF YOUR COUNTRIES' REGIONAL ENERGY ACTIVITIES.

5. US-ASEAN GROUP: THE TASK FORCE HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS PREPARATIONS ON THIS INITIATIVE, BUT HAS IN

MIND PROPOSING TO ASEAN THE CREATION OF A US-ASEAN WORKING GROUP ON ENERGY. ASEAN HAS A MANDATE TO PROMOTE REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION, BUT CURRENTLY IT IS NOT CLEAR HERE WHAT IS UNDERWAY. THE US COULD PROPOSE A JOINT EFFORT IN WHICH THE US WOULD HELP PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN CONVENTIONAL AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SUCH AS ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY TECHNIQUES, COAL, GEO-THERMAL, WIND, SOLAR, AND BIOMASS CONVERSION. US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS WOULD GIVE IMPETUS TO REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION. THIS MIGHT EVENTUALLY INCLUDE COOPERATION AMONG NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL CENTERS, SUCH AS THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, WITH US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THAT OF OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS SUCH AS THE ADB, NEW ZEALAND, AND AUSTRALIA. IF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES VISITED RESPOND POSITIVELY TO A SUGGESTION BY THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR A US-ASEAN WORKING GROUP ON ENERGY, THIS PROPOSAL COULD BE TAKEN UP AT THE NEXT US-ASEAN DIALOGUE MEETING; IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED THERE, THE FIRST

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 082633

WORKING GROUP MEETING COULD BE HELD THIS FALL. PARTICIPATION OF OTHER POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS WOULD BE UP TO ASEAN. COOPER

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